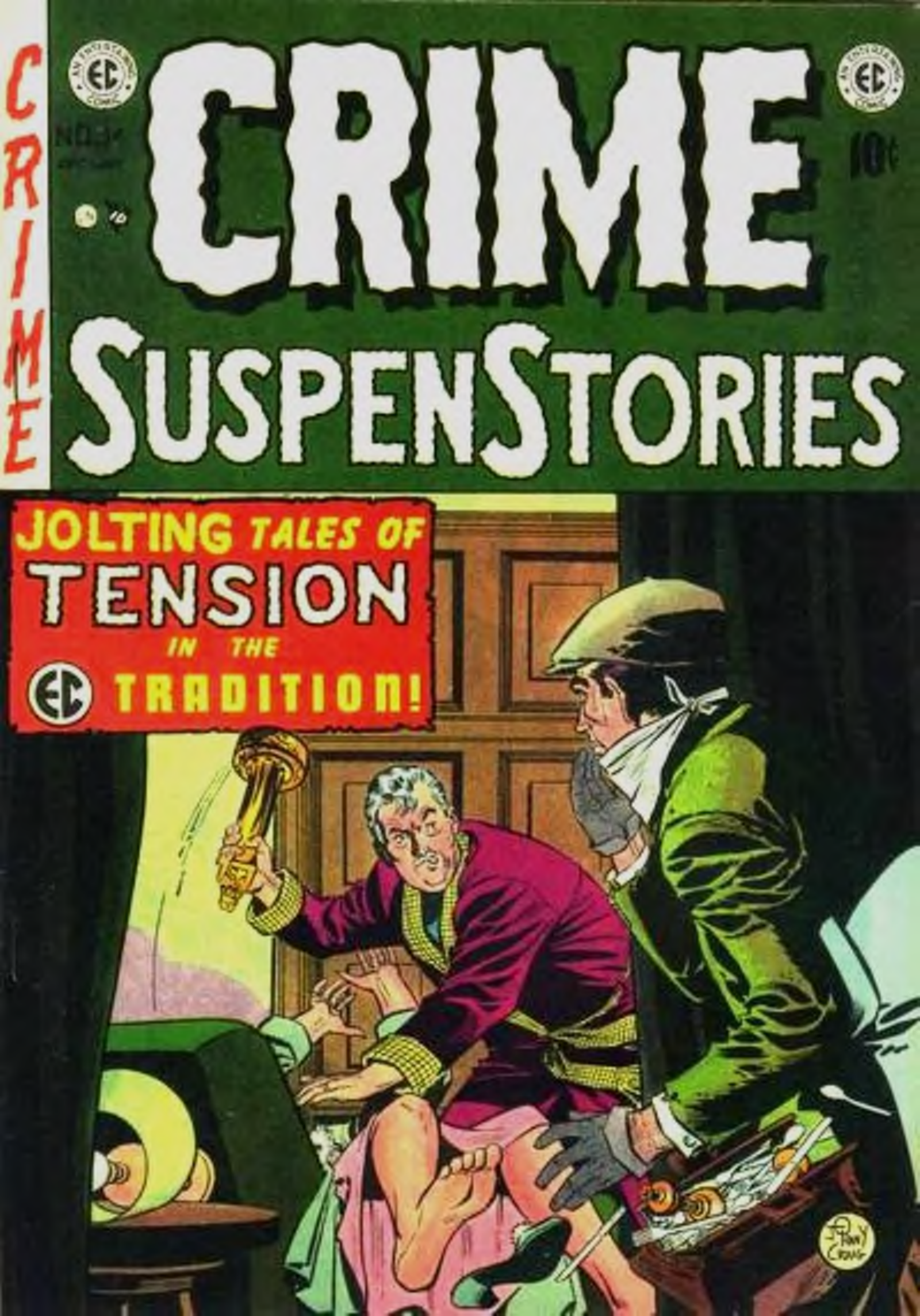

CRIME
CRIME SUSPENSTORIES
10¢
JOLTING TALES OF TENSION IN THE EC TRADITION!

SWEET DREAMS!

YOU LIGHT ANOTHER CIGARETTE AND IMPATIENTLY FLIP THE MATCH INTO THE ASH TRAY! YOU'VE BEEN WAITING MORE THAN AN HOUR, LISTENING TO THE RAIN DANCING ON THE CAR ROOF, AND YOU'RE SORRY YOU EVER MARRIED SUCH A WOMAN...
...WISH SHE'D HURRY! I'M LIABLE TO GET A PARKING TICKET!
JOHNNY CRAIG
1

FINALLY YOU SEE YOUR WIFE EMERGE FROM THE MEDICAL BUILDING! SHE SCAMPERS THROUGH THE RAINDROPS TO THE CAR, AND YOU DON'T EVEN OPEN THE DOOR! LET HER *DROWN*...

YOU COULD AT LEAST OPEN THE DOOR FOR ME, MARTIN!

SORRY, PAMELA... DIDN'T SEE YOU COMING! WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY?

YOU KICK YOURSELF FOR ASKING, BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP HER! SHE'S OFF ON HER USUAL TIRADE, SO YOU PULL AWAY FROM THE CURB AND HEAD HOME...

HONESTLY, MARTIN, I FEEL *TERRIBLE!* YOU KNOW HOW *WEAK* I AM! AND MY *NERVES!* I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* I'M GOING TO DO!

PAMELA... WHAT DID THE *DOCTOR SAY?*

I'VE TOLD HIM TIME AND TIME AGAIN HOW VERY *SICK* I AM! AND THE SLEEPING PILLS I'VE BEEN TAKING AREN'T *ANY GOOD AT ALL!*

PAMELA... WHAT DID HE *SAY?*

WHY, I HAVEN'T SLEPT A WINK IN THE LAST FOUR NIGHTS! AND I TOLD HIM THAT! I JUST LIE AWAKE ALL NIGHT, AND I *TOLD* HIM...

WELL!? WHAT DID HE SAY?

WHAT DID *WHO* SAY?

OH, NEVER MIND! IT'S LATE! I'M GOING TO BED!

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SO EXCITED! I TOLD DR. FIRESTONE THAT I CAN'T SLEEP, AND HE SAID I SHOULD COME BACK TOMORROW! HE'S GOING TO GIVE ME SOME *NEW* SLEEPING PILLS! AND IT'S *ABOUT TIME!*

PILLS! ALWAYS SLEEPING PILLS!

YOU LIE IN BED, MARTIN, WAITING FOR THE BLESSED SLEEP TO SEPARATE YOU FROM YOUR WIFE'S WAGGING TONGUE! *SLEEP!* IF ONLY SHE WOULD TAKE AN *OVERDOSE* OF SLEEPING PILLS... THEN SHE'D SLEEP *FOREVER*...

WHY NOT? HAPPENS ALL THE TIME! MAYBE... IT COULD... BE ARRANGED! SURE... WHY NOT?

THE NEXT DAY YOU DRIVE PAMELA TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE! YOU DON'T MIND WAITING FOR HER THIS TIME! YOU DON'T MIND AT ALL...
SHE'LL BE OUT ANY MINUTE... WITH THE SLEEPING PILLS!

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER, SHE'S SEATED BESIDE YOU... AND YOU'RE ALMOST HOME! YOU DON'T MIND LISTENING TO WHAT SHE'S SAYING... YOU WANT TO HEAR EVERY WORD...
HE SAID THESE SLEEPING PILLS ARE MUCH STRONGER THAN THE OTHERS I'VE BEEN TAKING! I HOPE THEY MAKE ME SLEEP!
DON'T WORRY, DEAR... THEY WILL!

WELL, I HOPE SO! I TOSS AND TURN ALL NIGHT LONG!
DON'T WORRY! YOU'LL SLEEP TONIGHT!

OH, I'M GOING TO MAKE SOME TEA, MARTIN, BEFORE GOING TO BED! IT MIGHT SETTLE MY NERVES!
TEA? OH, AH... I'LL HAVE A CUP, TOO! MAKE IT... STRONG!

YOU WAIT NERVOUSLY... AND THEN PAMELA CALLS YOU...
TEA'S READY, MARTIN!
EH? OH! GOOD! YOU GOT YOUR SLEEPING PILLS?

YES! I'M ONLY SUPPOSED TO TAKE ONE, SO I'LL HAVE IT NOW WITH MY TEA!
I SEE! SAY... I LEFT THE NEWSPAPER ON THE COUCH! MIND GETTING IT FOR ME?

OH, ALL RIGHT! I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU ASK SO MUCH OF ME, WHEN YOU KNOW I'M NOT WELL!
IN A LITTLE WHILE, YOU WON'T HAVE A THING TO WORRY YOU! YOU'LL SLEEP TILL DOOMSDAY!

YOUR WIFE LEAVES THE KITCHEN, AND YOU STAND THERE...CLUTCHING THE LITTLE BOTTLE IN YOUR TREMBLING FIST! YOU STAND WAITING, LISTENING...

SHE'LL BE BACK ANY MINUTE! YOU HAVE TO DECIDE QUICKLY! *YES*...OR *NO*!? HURRY, MARTIN! *HURRY*! WHAT WILL IT BE? *YES*...*OR NO*!?

YES!

QUICKLY, YOU CLOSE THE BOTTLE AND PUT IT AWAY! HOW MANY DID YOU DUMP IN? EIGHT? A DOZEN? *MORE*? WHY ARE YOU SWEATING?

HERE'S YOUR PAPER!

OH...THANKS! DID YOU BRING CIGARETTES?

CIGARETTES? NO! THEY'RE INSIDE! YOU WANT THEM? GO GET THEM!

OH, SURE! SURE! I'LL GET THEM! YOU...YOU STAY HERE...FINISH YOUR TEA!

YOU'RE GLAD TO GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN SO YOU CAN COMPOSE YOURSELF! YOU LIGHT UP... AND WIPE THE PERSPIRATION...

A MOMENT LATER YOU GO BACK TO THE KITCHEN! HAS SHE NOTICED ANYTHING? YOU SIT DOWN AND OPEN THE NEWSPAPER TO THE SPORTS PAGE! SHE PICKS UP THE TEA CUP AND DRINKS...

DAILY EAGLE

EW FAMIN

A MOMENT PASSES! FROM THE CORNER OF YOUR EYE, YOU SEE HER DRINK AGAIN! YOU HOLD YOUR BREATH AS YOU WATCH HER DRAIN THE CUP! THEN, A WRY EXPRESSION CROSSES HER FACE, AND SHE STARES AT YOU! YOU'RE SWEATING AGAIN...

WHA...WHAT'S THE MATTER?

...BOTTOM OF THE CUP TASTES FUNNY...

...GUESS I DIDN'T STIR THE SUGAR ENOUGH!

WITH A SIGH OF RELIEF YOU GULP DOWN YOUR TEA! PAMELA CLEANS THE TABLE AND BEGINS TO WASH OUT THE CUPS...YOU GET UP TO LEAVE...
I'M GOING TO BED! DON'T BE LONG, PAMELA...THAT SLEEPING PILL MAY WORK SOONER THAN YOU THINK!
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU ACTED A LITTLE CONCERNED! I'LL ONLY BE HERE A MINUTE!
YOU UNDRESS AND LIE IN BED! IT'S DONE! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WAIT UNTIL MORNING...AND SHE'LL BE DEAD! YOU YAWN... IT'S BEEN SUCH A TIRING EVENING! YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES...
SOMEONE SHAKES YOU ROUGHLY! YOU OPEN YOUR EYES AND SEE PAMELA KNEELING ON THE BED, BENDING OVER YOU...
SLEEPY, MARTIN?
EH? FNFF..YEAH! YEAH...WHY AREN'T YOU SLEEPING?
ME? SLEEPING? WHY SHOULD I BE TIRED? I DIDN'T TAKE SLEEPING PILLS!
EH? WHA..? WHAT'DYA MEAN, YOU DIDN'T TAKE ANY?! I..I SAW YOU...
NO, MARTIN! I SAW YOU! I SAW YOU PUT THE SLEEPING PILLS IN MY TEA... AND WHEN YOU WENT OUT FOR A CIGARETTE, I SWITCHED THE CUPS!
WHAT?
THAT'S RIGHT! I SWITCHED CUPS! YOU DRANK THE TEA DOSED WITH SLEEPING PILLS! YOU'RE GOING TO DIE! NOT ME! YOU'RE GOING TO DIE!
YOU DIRTY... IF... IF I'M GOING TO DIE... THEN SO WILL YOU!
THINK YOU'RE SMART, EH? WELL, I'LL SHOW YOU! I'M GOING TO KILL YOU! AT LEAST I'LL DIE HAPPY!
MARTIN! DON'T BE A FOOL! IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD TO... MARTIN!
5

SHE STRUGGLES! SHE'S STRONG FOR A WOMAN WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE SICK! BUT YOU'RE STRONGER... AND YOU PRESS THE PILLOW OVER HER FACE AND HOLD IT THERE!

LONG TERRIFYING MINUTES PASS! SHE CLAWS FRANTICALLY AT THE PILLOW, TRYING DESPERATELY TO LIVE! HER BODY SURGES AND CONVULSES... AND SUDDENLY... SHE GOES LIMP!

STILL YOU HOLD THE PILLOW IN PLACE! YOU HOLD IT UNTIL YOU ARE *POSITIVE*... AND THEN YOU REMOVE IT!

(GASP) SHE'S... SHE'S *DEAD*!

... AND I'M GOING TO DIE TOO! NOTHING I CAN DO... TO STOP IT! I'M GOING TO DIE! TOO MANY SLEEPING PILLS... TOO MANY! I'M GOING TO... DIE!

YOU FALL BACK, EXHAUSTED! YOU CAN HARDLY MOVE NOW, AND THE ROOM BEGINS TO WHIRL! YOU CAN FEEL YOURSELF BLACKING OUT...

THE EBONY BLACKNESS SEEMS ETERNAL! YOU'RE FLOATING IN NOTHINGNESS FOR ALL TIME! AND THEN, SUDDENLY... OUT OF THE INKY DARKNESS... YOU SENSE A LIGHT... WARM, FRIENDLY, FAMILIAR! YOU OPEN YOUR EYES... AND FIND YOURSELF LYING IN BED, WITH THE MORNING SUN CARESSING YOUR FACE...

YOU SIT BOLT UPRIGHT IN BED! YOU'RE *ALIVE*! YOU TOUCH YOUR FACE TO MAKE SURE! IT'S MORNING, AND YOU'RE ALIVE! BUT WAIT...

I... I WAS *SLEEPING*! *HA, HA*! BUT THEN... *EVERYTHING WAS A DREAM*! *HA*! *HA*! *I... WAS ONLY DREAMING*!

YOU LAUGH ALMOST HYSTERICALLY! YOU'RE GLAD TO BE ALIVE, MARTIN, AND SO GLAD IT WAS ONLY A DREAM! AND THEN, ABRUPTLY, YOU STOP LAUGHING...

WHAT AM I LAUGHING FOR? EVEN IF IT *WAS* ONLY A DREAM... PAM SHOULD BE DEAD FROM THE SLEEPING PILLS I GAVE HER! SURE!

CERTAINLY, YOUR WIFE SHOULD BE DEAD! YOU *KNOW* YOU WERE AWAKE WHEN SHE DRANK THE TEA! YOU KNOW *THAT* WAS NO DREAM! YOU TURN... AND LOOK! WITH A SHOCK, YOU SEE A *PILLOW* COVERING HER FACE!

AWK! THE PILLOW! WAIT A MINUTE! I... I CAN'T GET EXCITED! I'VE GOT TO FIGURE THIS OUT!

YOU REMOVE THE PILLOW AND SLIP IT UNDER HER HEAD! THEN YOU SEARCH FOR A HEARTBEAT...

NO PULSE! SHE'S *DEAD*, ALL RIGHT!

I KNOW WHAT MUST HAVE HAPPENED! AFTER DRINKING THE TEA, SHE CAME TO BED... ONLY I WAS *ASLEEP!* THEN SOMETIME DURING THE NIGHT, I HAD THAT DREAM... AND *IN MY SLEEP I ACTUALLY ACTED OUT THE DREAM!*

HEH! SHE WAS PROBABLY ALREADY *DEAD* FROM THE *SLEEPING PILLS* WHEN I PUT THE PILLOW OVER HER FACE! BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER! NOW I HAVE TO CALL HER DOCTOR!

YOU PICK UP THE PHONE, AND DIAL! YOU HEAR IT RINGING ON THE OTHER END... AND WHEN THE DOCTOR ANSWERS, YOU'RE ALL SET...

DOCTOR! THIS IS *MARTIN KAINE!* YOU'D BETTER GET OVER HERE RIGHT AWAY! SOMETHING'S *WRONG* WITH MY *WIFE!* SHE *WON'T WAKE UP!*

TWENTY MINUTES LATER, YOU ADMIT THE DOCTOR TO YOUR APARTMENT... AND IMMEDIATELY YOU START IN...

DOCTOR, I THINK SHE'S *DEAD!* I CAN'T FIND HER PULSE... AND HER SKIN HAS A FUNNY COLOR! *PLEASE!* DO SOMETHING!

KEEP CALM, MR. KAINE! WHERE *IS* YOUR WIFE?

YOU RUSH THE DOCTOR INTO THE BEDROOM...WHILE YOU MAKE SURE HE REALIZES HOW 'GRIEF-STRICKEN' YOU ARE ...
THERE, DOCTOR! DO SOMETHING FOR HER! HELP HER!
ALL RIGHT, MR. KAINE! I'LL DO WHAT I CAN! JUST DON'T LOSE CONTROL OF YOURSELF!
I ALWAYS WARNED HER ABOUT SLEEPING PILLS! (SOB) I ALWAYS TOLD HER TO BE CAREFUL! BUT SHE NEVER LISTENED! SHE ALWAYS TOOK MORE THAN SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO! WHY DID IT HAVE TO HAPPEN?
SLEEPING PILLS! ALWAYS TOO MANY SLEEPING PILLS! I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN TO HER SOMEDAY! I WARNED HER! BUT SHE NEVER LISTENED! (SOB!) NEVER... NEVER... NEVER...
LOOK! I FOUND THIS BOTTLE OF PILLS YOU GAVE HER... ALMOST EMPTY! I...
I'M AFRAID YOUR WIFE IS DEAD, MR. KAINE! HAVE YOU CALLED THE POLICE?
EH? THE POLICE? OF...OF COURSE NOT! WHY...?
IN A CASE LIKE THIS, MR. KAINE, YOU MUST ALWAYS NOTIFY THE POLICE!
BUT...BUT, WHY? I MEAN, JUST BECAUSE MY WIFE ACCIDENTLY TOOK AN OVERDOSE OF... OF SLEEPING PILLS?
YOUR WIFE DIDN'T DIE FROM SLEEPING PILLS, MR. KAINE! THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PHYSICAL IMPOSSIBILITY! CERTAINLY, YOU SHOULD REALIZE, MR. KAINE, THAT YOUR WIFE WAS A CHRONIC HYPOCHONDRIAC!
BUT...BUT YOU SAW THE... THE BOTTLE! IT WAS ALMOST EMPTY! SHE MUST HAVE TAKEN A FULL DOZEN!
SHE COULD HAVE TAKEN A FULL HUNDRED, WITHOUT BEING HARMED AT ALL! THE PILLS IN THAT BOTTLE WERE NOTHING BUT SUGAR!
HELLO... POLICE HEADQUARTERS? I WANT TO REPORT A MURDER!
-THE END-

THE PERFECT PLACE!

I'D SCOURED THE COUNTY FOR MILES...SEARCHING! NOTHING I SAW QUITE SUITED MY PURPOSE! FINALLY AN OLD FARMER WHOM I'D STOPPED RECOMMENDED A PLACE...

LOOKIN' FOR A *HOUSE*, EH, MISTER? ONE THAT'S KINDA *SECLUDED*, YUH SAY?

YES! YOU SEE I'M A *WRITER*! I WANT *PRIVACY!*

OL' *JESS CARNEY'S PLACE* IS FER *SALE*, MISTER! OL' JESS'S BEEN *WANTIN'* T'MOVE EVER SINCE HIS *WIFE* RUN OFF AN' *LEFT* HIM! POOR GUY! HE'S MIGHTY *LONELY* UP THERE...

SOUNDS LIKE *JUST THE THING!* HOW DO I *GET* THERE, OLD TIMER?

THE FARMER GAVE ME DIRECTIONS AND I DROVE ON TO THE CARNEY HOUSE! IT WAS ABOUT A MILE OFF THE MAIN HIGHWAY ON A RUTTED SIDE-ROAD! AS I ROUNDED A BEND, IT LOOMED UP BEFORE ME...SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE SKY...
HMMMM! THAT FARMER WAS RIGHT! NOT ANOTHER HOUSE AROUND! IT CERTAINLY IS SECLUDED!
I PULLED UP BEFORE THE OVERGROWN LAWN AND GOT OUT OF THE CAR! THE OLD HOUSE WAS SADLY IN NEED OF A PAINT JOB, AND THE SHRUBBERY SURROUNDING IT NEEDED A GOOD PRUNING! IT LOOKED LIKE IT HAD ONCE BEEN A VERY PRETTY PLACE, BUT HAD BEEN LEFT TO RUN DOWN IN RECENT YEARS...
IT HAS POSSIBILITIES, THOUGH! IF THE PRICE IS RIGHT, I'LL BUY IT!
Ooo...
I MOVED DOWN THE WEEDY WALK, UP THE PAINT-CRACKED STEPS, AND ONTO THE WEATHERBEATEN PORCH! THE FRONT DOOR SWUNG OPEN JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO KNOCK...
AFTERNOON, STRANGER! SOMETHIN' I KIN DO FER YUH?
GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. CARNEY! WHY... YES, SIR! I UNDERSTAND YOUR HOUSE IS FOR SALE!
THAT'S RIGHT, STRANGER! I DON' NEED SUCH A BIG PLACE NOW THAT AMY'S DONE LEFT ME!
YES! THAT'S WHAT THE FARMER DOWN THE MAIN ROAD TOLD ME!
HMPH! THAT SOUNDS LIKE OL' HIRAM WINNER! HE TALKS TOO MUCH! THE OLD GOSSIP!
MY NAME IS ERNEST JENKINS, MR. CARNEY! I'M A WRITER! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A NICE SECLUDED PLACE TO WORK IN!
WRITER, EH? WELL, NOBODY'LL BOTHER YOU 'ROUND HERE, MR. JENKINS! NEAREST HOUSE IS HALF A MILE AWAY! YOU'LL HAVE ALL THE PRIVACY YOU NEED!
GOOD! COME! SHOW ME THE HOUSE! LET'S START WITH THE CELLAR!
IT WAS A NICE HOUSE! WITH THE PROPER REDECORATING IT COULD'VE BEEN VERY ATTRACTIVE! AND IT WAS JUST WHAT I NEEDED! SO...
HOW MUCH DO I WANT, MR. JENKINS? WELL! YOU CAN HAVE HER FOR... NINE THOUSAND... LOCK, STOCK, AN' BARREL!
SOLD, MR. CARNEY! LET'S GO INTO TOWN AND DRAW UP THE PAPERS!
2

I DROVE JESS CARNEY INTO TOWN, A LAWYER DREW UP THE NECESSARY PAPERS FOR THE SALE, AND WE CLOSED THE DEAL! ON THE WAY BACK, JESS STARTED TALKING...

KINDA HATE TO GIVE UP THE OLD PLACE, MR. JENKINS! AMY 'N' I HAD SOME HAPPY YEARS THERE! TILL SHE.. TILL SHE...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT, JESS! NOT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO!

OH *THAT'S* ALL RIGHT, MR. JENKINS! I DON'T *MIND*, NOW THAT SHE'S *GONE!* HAPPENED 'BOUT *THREE YEARS AGO!* *SUDDENLY*... JUS' LIKE *THAT*... SHE UPS AN' TELLS ME SHE'S IN *LOVE* WITH THIS HERE *CITY FELLER*, AND SHE'S *LEAVIN'* ME!

GEE! THAT'S *TOO BAD*, JESS! WALKED *OUT* ON YOU, EH?

GONE *THREE YEARS* COME *SEPTEMBER*, MR. JENKINS! AMY WAS A *PRETTY* WOMAN *TOO!* I NEVER *COULD* FIGURE IT *OUT!* NEVER *COULD*...

WELL, HERE WE *ARE*, JESS! NOW ABOUT *HOW SOON* WILL I BE ABLE TO *MOVE IN*?

IT'S *YORE HOUSE*, MR. JENKINS! I'LL BE *LEAVIN'* *TONIGHT!*

GOOD! I'LL MOVE IN *TOMORROW* THEN!

JESS GOT OUT AND WE BID EACH OTHER GOOD-BYE...

WELL, S'LONG MR. JENKINS! I GUESS I WON'T BE *SEEIN'* YUH AGAIN! HOPE YOU LIKE *LIVIN'* HERE!

SO LONG, JESS! AND *THANKS!*

I DROVE BACK TO TOWN AND MADE A PHONE CALL! THEN I STARTED FOR THE CITY! THE FIRST PHASE OF MY PLAN WAS COMPLETED! NOW.. THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO! I HAD TO CONVINCE MY WIFE JUNE THAT SHE'D BE HAPPY LIVING IN THE CARNEY *HOUSE*...

THAT *YOU*, ERNIE?

YES! IT'S *ME*, JUNE! AND I'VE GOT *WONDERFUL NEWS!*

JUNE AND I HAD BEEN MARRIED FOR ABOUT FOUR YEARS! I'D MARRIED HER WHEN I WAS A STRUGGLING AUTHOR PEDDLING MY FIRST STORIES...

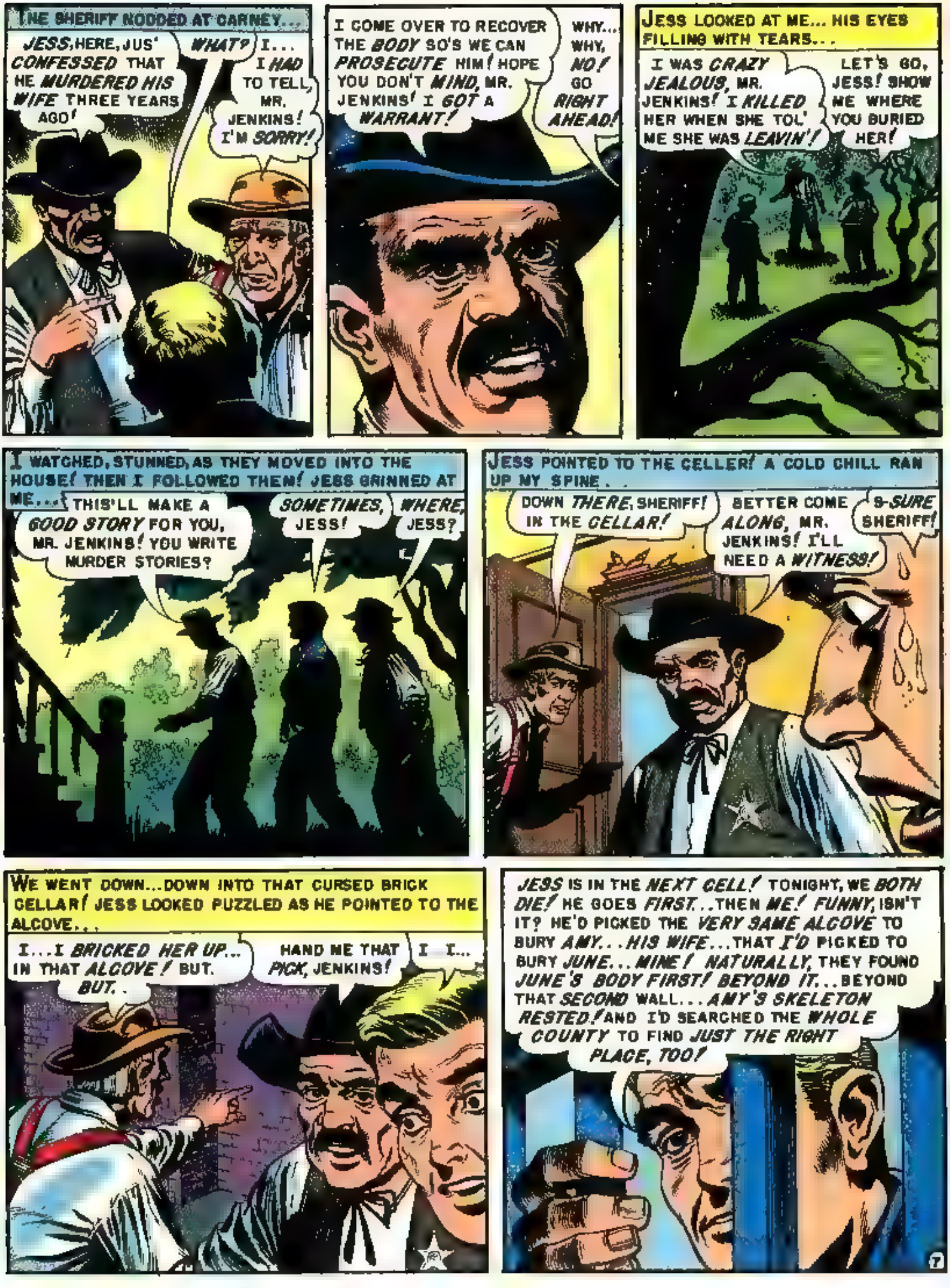
NEWS, ERNIE? WHAT *IS* IT?

I BOUGHT A *HOUSE* TODAY, JUNE! A *LOVELY* HOUSE...OUT IN THE *COUNTRY!* YOU'LL BE *CRAZY* ABOUT IT! IT'S OFF BY ITSELF... *SECLUDED!*

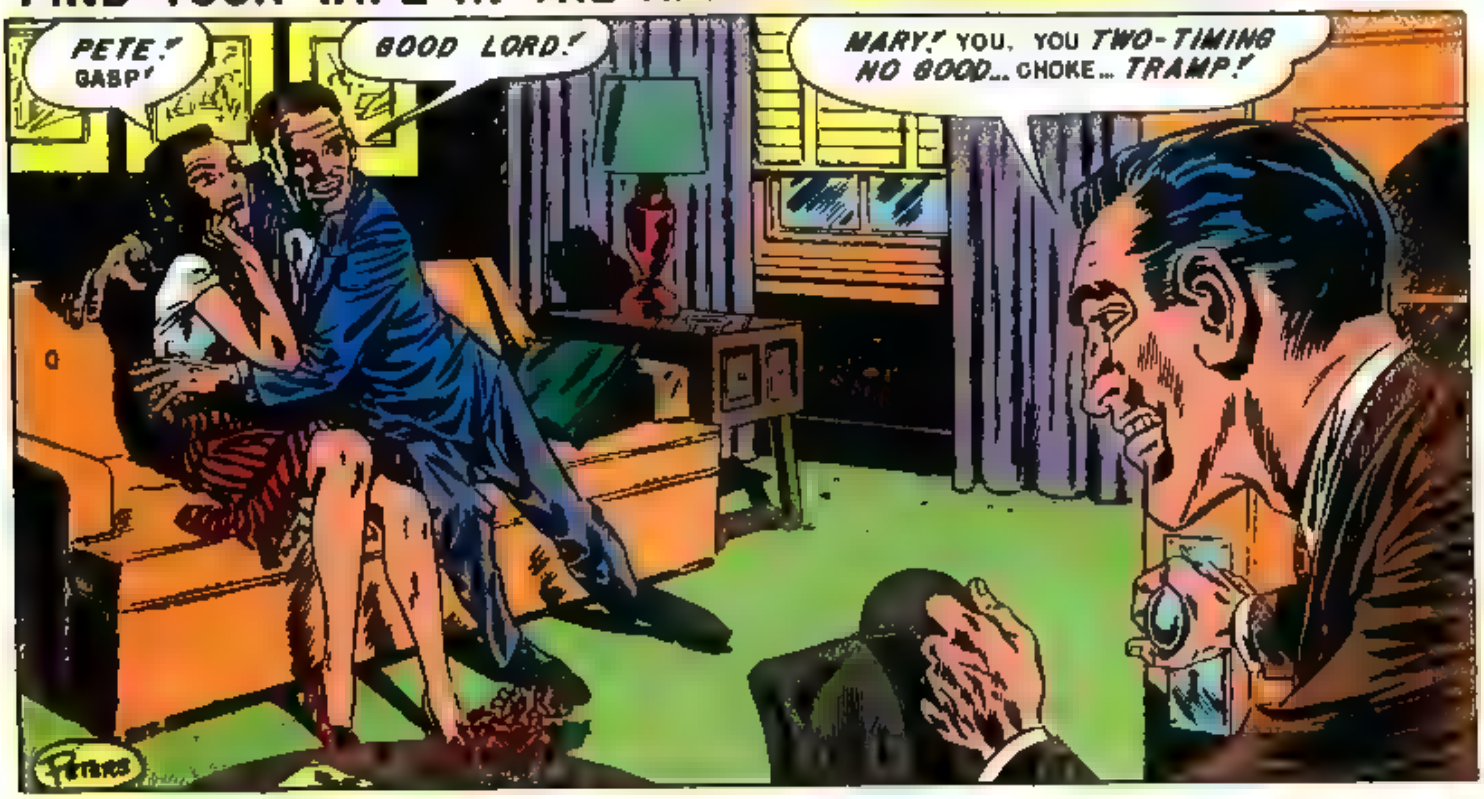
A HOUSE? BUT...BUT I LIKE IT HERE... IN THIS APARTMENT!
YOU'LL LIKE THIS HOUSE, JUNE! AND I'LL HAVE THE PEACE AND QUIET I NEED TO FINISH MY NOVEL!
I DON'T KNOW, ERNIE! ALL OF MY FRIENDS ARE HERE IN THE CITY!
WELL AT LEAST DRIVE OUT WITH ME TOMORROW AND LOOK AT IT!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL LOOK AT IT!
THAT'S ALL I ASK, JUNE! YOU'LL LOVE IT! YOU'LL SEE!
AS I SAID, I MARRIED JUNE WHEN I WAS A STRUGGLING WRITER! BUT AS I BECAME MORE AND MORE SUCCESSFUL, I BEGAN MEETING PEOPLE...EXCITING PEOPLE! WHEN I MET AGNES LUDLOW, ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WRITER, I FOUND THAT MY MARRIAGE TO JUNE HAD BEEN A MISTAKE...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING NOW, ERNIE?
I'VE GOT TO SEE MY PUBLISHER, JUNE! DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME! I'LL BE HOME LATE!
I LEFT JUNE AND DROVE ACROSS TOWN TO AGNES'S PENTHOUSE...
ERNIE! LOOK! I THOUGHT WE TALKED THIS ALL OVER! IT'S NO GOOD THIS WAY! YOU'RE MARRIED! I DON'T PLAY THAT WAY!
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, AGNES! I'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT!
THERE'S NOTHING TO FIGURE OUT, ERNIE! JUNE WOULD NEVER GIVE YOU A DIVORCE! YOU'VE ADMITTED IT! IT JUST CAN'T WORK OUT! IF YOU WERE FREE... IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT! BUT.. THIS WAY.
I WILL BE FREE, AGNES! SOON! YOU'LL SEE! OH, BABY.. I LOVE YOU.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT THEN, ERNIE WHEN YOU ARE FREE! YOU'D BETTER GO, NOW! PLEASE.
ALL RIGHT, AGNES! I'LL...I'LL BE SEEING YOU!

I WAS CRAZY ABOUT AGNES! I WANTED HER MORE THAN I'D EVER WANTED ANY WOMAN IN MY WHOLE LIFE! BUT JUNE STOOD IN THE WAY! TIRESOME, UNEXCITING JUNE! MY PLAN WAS SIMPLE! AND IT WAS THE ONLY WAY! IF JUNE WOULDN'T GIVE ME MY FREEDOM. . THEN I'D JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT. . .
IT'S JUST UP THIS ROAD, JUNE!
IT'S CERTAINLY FAR FROM TOWN, ERNIE!
I PULLED UP BEFORE THE RUN-DOWN HOUSE! I NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE ORDER I'D PHONED FOR THE DAY BEFORE HAD BEEN DELIVERED...
WELL! HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?
ERNIE! IT'S... IT'S TERRIBLE! IT. IT ISN'T EVEN PRETTY!
I TOOK JUNE'S HAND AND LED HER UP ONTO THE PORCH! I UNLOCKED THE DOOR...
NONSENSE, DEAR! A LITTLE REMODELING AND SOME PAINT...
AN AWFUL LOT OF REMODLING, ERNIE!
IT WAS QUIET INSIDE! YOU COULD HEAR A PIN DROP! JUNE LOOKED AROUND AND SHUDDERED...
ERNIE! DO YOU EXPECT ME TO STAY HERE... IN THIS HORRID PLACE?
OF COURSE I DO, DEAR! YOU'LL STAY HERE... FOREVER...
ERNIE! DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
IN THE CELLER... JUNE! THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO STAY!
ERNIE! COUGH! YOU'RE HURTING ME!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, JUNE! DID YOU NOTICE THE PILE OF BRICKS AND CEMENT OUTSIDE...
UNN...GGG CH GG!
AFTER..GASP YOU'RE DEAD... GASP... I'M GOING TO BRICK YOU UP IN...THE CELLAR!
5

JUNE'S LIFELESS BODY SLIPPED FROM MY FINGERS LIKE A TATTERED RAG! I KNELT AND PICKED HER UP! I CARRIED HER DOWN INTO THE CELLAR...
NO ONE WILL EVER LOOK FOR YOU HERE, MY DEAR! I'LL TELL THEM YOU REFUSED TO LIVE WITH ME... IN THIS HOUSE! I'LL TELL THEM YOU LEFT ME!
THEN I BROUGHT IN THE BRICKS AND CEMENT! THE CELLAR HAD A LITTLE ALCOVE AT ONE END! I PUSHED JUNE'S BODY INTO IT AND BEGAN TO BRICK IT IN
IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO FIND A HOUSE LIKE THIS, JUNE.. A HOUSE WITH A BRICK CELLAR!
THE WALL ROSE HIGHER AND HIGHER AS I SLAPPED EACH BRICK INTO PLACE! I WORKED FEVERISHLY! FINALLY IT WAS FINISHED..
THERE! HEH, HEH! PERFECT! NOW, I'M FREE FREE!
THEN I CLEANED UP THE MESS I'D MADE! I PILED THE FEW REMAINING BRICKS INTO THE TRUNK OF MY CAR..
I'LL DUMP THESE ON THE WAY BACK TO THE CITY! AGNES WILL BE SO GLAD TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS!
SUDDENLY I HEARD A CAR COMING UP THE RUTTED SIDE-ROAD! I SLAMMED THE TRUNK CLOSED..
SOMEONE'S COMING!
THE CAR PULLED UP BEFORE THE HOUSE! THE WORDS PAINTED ON THE DOOR SCREAMED AT ME...
"SHERIFF"!
A HEAVY SET MAN WEARING A BADGE GOT OUT! JESS GARNEY FOLLOWED...
YOU MR. JENKINS?
WHY YES! WHAT'S WRONG?
6


THE SHERIFF NODDED AT CARNEY...
JESS, HERE, JUS' CONFESSED THAT HE MURDERED HIS WIFE THREE YEARS AGO!
WHAT?
I... I HAD TO TELL MR. JENKINS! I'M SORRY!
I COME OVER TO RECOVER THE BODY SO'S WE CAN PROSECUTE HIM! HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, MR. JENKINS! I GOT A WARRANT!
WHY... WHY, NO! GO RIGHT AHEAD!
JESS LOOKED AT ME... HIS EYES FILLING WITH TEARS...
I WAS CRAZY JEALOUS, MR. JENKINS! I KILLED HER WHEN SHE TOL' ME SHE WAS LEAVIN'!
LET'S GO, JESS! SHOW ME WHERE YOU BURIED HER!
I WATCHED, STUNNED, AS THEY MOVED INTO THE HOUSE! THEN I FOLLOWED THEM! JESS GRINNED AT ME...
THIS'LL MAKE A GOOD STORY FOR YOU, MR. JENKINS! YOU WRITE MURDER STORIES?
SOMETIMES, JESS!
WHERE, JESS?
JESS POINTED TO THE CELLER! A COLD CHILL RAN UP MY SPINE...
DOWN THERE, SHERIFF! IN THE CELLAR!
BETTER COME ALONG, MR. JENKINS! I'LL NEED A WITNESS!
S-SURE SHERIFF!
WE WENT DOWN...DOWN INTO THAT CURSED BRICK CELLAR! JESS LOOKED PUZZLED AS HE POINTED TO THE ALCOVE...
I...I BRICKED HER UP... IN THAT ALCOVE! BUT. BUT..
HAND ME THAT PICK, JENKINS!
I I...
JESS IS IN THE NEXT CELL! TONIGHT, WE BOTH DIE! HE GOES FIRST..THEN ME! FUNNY, ISN'T IT? HE'D PICKED THE VERY SAME ALCOVE TO BURY AMY...HIS WIFE...THAT I'D PICKED TO BURY JUNE...MINE! NATURALLY, THEY FOUND JUNE'S BODY FIRST! BEYOND IT...BEYOND THAT SECOND WALL...AMY'S SKELETON RESTED! AND I'D SEARCHED THE WHOLE COUNTY TO FIND JUST THE RIGHT PLACE, TOO!
7

IN THIS FIRST *'E.C. QUICKIE'*, YOU'RE PETE MILLER... AN AMERICAN! YOU COME HOME UNEXPECTEDLY ONE DAY...AND FIND YOUR WIFE IN THE ARMS OF ANOTHER MAN...



YOU RUSH TO YOUR DRAWER AND YOU PULL OUT YOUR GUN...

WHEN HE LEAVES, YOU TURN TO YOUR WIFE IN A JEALOUS RAGE...

SO YOU PUMP THREE BULLETS INTO HER TEAR-STAINED FACE.

AND NOW, PETE MILLER, FOR YOUR CRIME, YOU HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DIE IN...

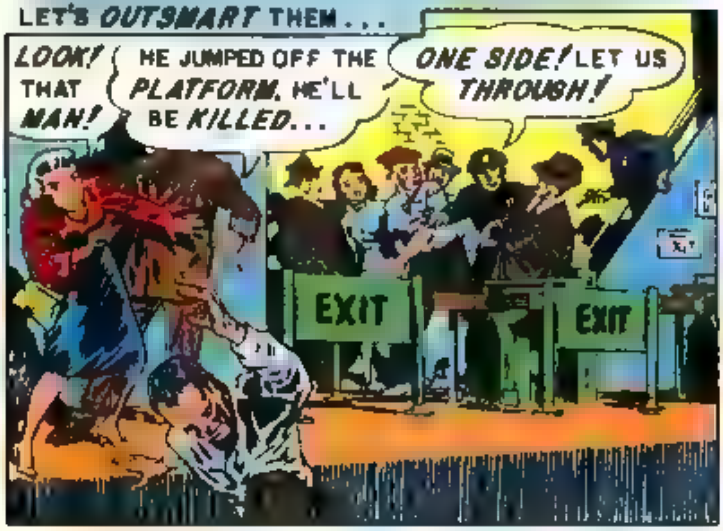
THE ELECTRIC CHAIR

BUT YOU DON'T *WANT* TO DIE, PETE MILLER! YOU'RE *FRIGHTENED!* YOU WANT TO *ESCAPE* THE *ELECTRIC CHAIR!* SO WHEN THE TIME COMES TO MOVE YOU FROM THE COURT-HOUSE JAIL . .

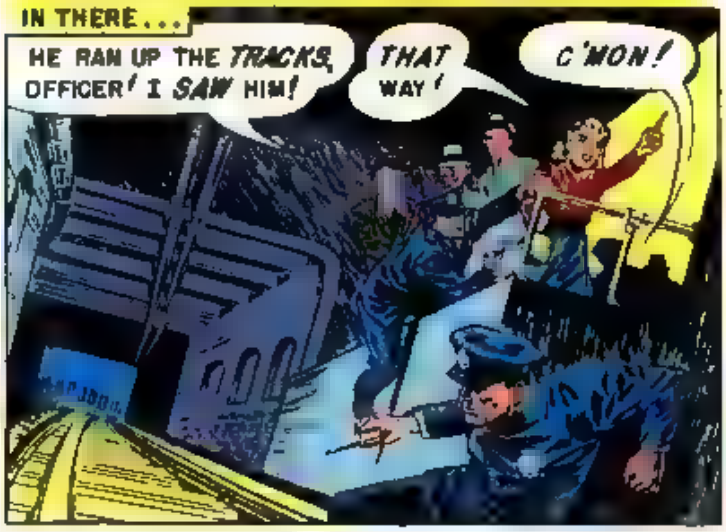
YOU'RE *LUCKY*, PETE MILLER! THE COPS *DARE NOT SHOOT* FOR FEAR OF HITTING *INNOCENT BYSTANDERS!* YOU STREAK ACROSS THE STREET...

...AND DUCK DOWN THE SUBWAY STAIRS! THE *NEW YORK SUBWAY... RUSH HOUR.. JAMMED WITH PEOPLE...*

YES, PETE! YOU'RE *GETTING AWAY... CHEATING* THE *ELECTRIC CHAIR!* LET'S BE *CLEVER* NOW, PETE! LET'S *OUTSMART* THEM . . .



THAT'S RIGHT, PETE! IT'S *DARK* DOWN THERE DOWN THAT *SUBWAY* TUNNEL! THEY'LL *NEVER* FIND YOU IN THERE...



LISTEN, PETE! *LISTEN! HEAR* IT! *LOOK!* UP *AHEAD!* THE *TRAIN'S* COMING. THE *SUBWAY TRAIN*

GET OFF THE TRACKS, PETE! GET OUT OF THE WAY OF THAT *TRAIN! NO! WAIT!* NOT *THAT* WAY. .

AS THE DARKNESS DESCENDS YOU REALIZE, PETE MILLER, THAT YOU'VE STEPPED AGAINST THE *THIRD RAIL!* YOU *HAVEN'T ESCAPED AFTER ALL*, PETE! YOU'RE DEAD — **ELECTROCUTED!**

WHAT IF THINGS WERE *DIFFERENT*? WHAT IF YOU WERE, SAY, AN *ENGLISHMAN* THIS TIME? WOULD YOU HAVE *ACTED* ANY DIFFERENTLY? LET'S SEE... PETER MILLSON...
PETER! GASP!
BLIMEY!
I SAY! THAT'S MY WIFE YOU SCOUNDREL!
YOU RUSH TO YOUR DRAWER AND YOU PULL OUT YOUR GUN...
PETER! NO! PUT DOWN THAT *REVOLVER!*
WAIT, MILLSON! CAN'T WE *TALK THIS OVER*?
SORRY, OLD CHAP! *HONOR*, YOU KNOW!
PETER! PLEASE
STAY *OUT* OF THIS, MY DEAR! WHAT *MUST* BE DONE, *MUST BE DONE!*
DON'T BE A *BLOODY FOOL*, MILLSON!
SO YOU PUMP THREE BULLETS INTO YOUR RIVAL'S SCREAMING FACE
YAAA... NNNBG!
AND NOW, PETER MILLSON...FOR YOUR CRIME, AS IS THE ENGLISH CUSTOM, YOU HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DIE BY...
THE HANGMAN'S NOOSE

BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, PETER MILLSON! YOU'RE FRIGHTENED! YOU WANT TO ESCAPE THE GALLOWS! SO WHEN YOUR CHANCE COMES...
I SAY!
HE'S DASHING FOR IT!
CAN'T SHOOT, BLAST IT! I'M LIABLE TO HIT A PEDESTRIAN!
YOU'RE LUCKY, PETER MILLSON! THE BOBBIES DARE NOT SHOOT FOR FEAR OF HITTING INNOCENT BYSTANDERS! YOU DART ACROSS THE AVENUE...
HURRY!
PURSUE HIM!
...AND INTO THE UNDERGROUND! THE LONDON UNDERGROUND... RUSH HOUR... JAMMED WITH PEOPLE...
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO LOSE THEM!
THERE HE GOES! INTO THE UNDERGROUND! ON YOUR TOES, NOW! HE'LL ESCAPE!
YES, PETER! YOU'RE ESCAPING...CHEATING THE HANGMAN'S NOOSE! BE CLEVER NOW, PETER! DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE YOUR AMERICAN COUNTERPART MADE...
A TRAIN! IF I CAN MAKE IT BEFORE THE DOORS CLOSE.
PARDON US! LET US THROUGH!
NOW!
ESCALATOR TO STREET
THAT'S RIGHT, PETER! IF YOU CAN MAKE THAT TRAIN, THEY'LL NEVER CATCH YOU! QUICK, NOW! WATCH OUT... THE DOORS ARE CLOSING...
BLAST IT!
THERE HE IS!
TOO LATE, PETER! THE DOORS HAVE SLAMMED SHUT... SLAMMED IN YOUR FACE! THE TRAIN'S BEGINNING TO PULL OUT...
WAIT! CHOKE! MY TIE!
LOOK!
BLIMEY!
FASTER... FASTER THE TRAIN GOES... DRAGGING YOU ALONG THE PLATFORM...
YAAAAAAAGGGGGGHHHHHHHH!
AND AS THE DARKNESS DESCENDS... YOU REALIZE, PETER MILLSON, THAT YOU HAVEN'T ESCAPED AFTER ALL! THE KNOT... TIGHTENING ABOUT YOUR NECK... MEANS THAT YOU'RE BEING
HANGED!

AND IF YOU WERE, SAY, *FRENCH*? WOULD THINGS BE THE SAME *THEN*? WOULD YOU HAVE ACTED THE SAME? LET'S SEE... PIERRE MILLET...

YOU RUSH TO YOUR DRAWER AND YOU PULL OUT YOUR GUN. .

YOU PUMP THREE BULLETS INTO YOUR WIFE'S TEAR-STAINED FACE.

AND THREE BULLETS INTO YOUR RIVAL'S .

AND NOW, PIERRE MILLET... FOR YOUR CRIME, AS IS THE FRENCH CUSTOM, YOU HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO...

The GUILLOTINE!

BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, PIERRE MILLET! YOU'RE FRIGHTENED! YOU WANT TO ESCAPE THE GUILLOTINE! SO...
MON DIEU!
HE RUNS!
FIRE!
NO! ZE CROWD!
YOU'RE LUCKY, PIERRE! THE GENDARMES DARE NOT SHOOT FOR FEAR OF HITTING INNOCENT BYSTANDERS! YOU SCAMPER ACROSS THE RUE...
QUEEK!
GET HEEM!
...AND INTO THE METRO! THE PARIS METRO... RUSH HOUR... JAMMED WITH PEOPLE...
THEES IS MY CHANCE TO GET AWAY!
THERE HE GOES! INTO ZE METRO! QUEEK! HE WEEL ESCAPE!
OUI, PIERRE! YOU'RE ESCAPING. CHEATING THE GUILLOTINE! LET'S BE CLEVER NOW, PIERRE! LET'S OUTSMART THEM...
LOOK! ZAT MAN!
HE LEAPS FROM THE PLATFORM! HE WEEL BE KEELED!
OUT OF ZE WAY! LET US PASS!
WAIT, PIERRE! WAIT! YOUR AMERICAN COUNTERPART MADE THAT MISTAKE! WATCH OUT FOR THAT THIRD-RAIL...
HE EZ RUNNING UP ZE TRACKS!
QUEEK!
AFTAIR HEEM!
THE TRAIN, PIERRE! IT'S COMING! LISTEN! HEAR IT? LOOK OUT! YOU'RE TRIPPING ON THAT TIE.
OOOOOOOOF!
YOU'VE STRUCK YOUR HEAD, PIERRE! YOU'RE DAZED! THE TRAIN IS RUSHING AT YOU! THE GLEAMING WHEELS ROARING DOWN THE TRACKS...
AND AS THE KNIFE-LIKE WHEEL SEVERS YOUR HEAD FROM YOUR BODY, AND THE DARKNESS CLOSES IN, YOU REALIZE, PIERRE MILLET, THAT YOU HAVEN'T ESCAPED! YOU'VE JUST BEEN ... GUILLOTINED!!

THE HAUNT OF FEAR

HEE, HEE! GREETINGS, *BORES* AND *GHOULS!* WELCOME TO *THE HAUNT OF FEAR!* YEP... IT'S ME... YOUR *SHIVER-CHEF, THE OLD WITCH*, READY TO *GUEST-SPOT* ONCE AGAIN! FOR *THIS* ISSUE OF CRIME SUSPENSTORIES, I'VE CHOSEN A *DELIGHTFUL* LITTLE *DELVING* INTO THE *DELIRIOUS!* IT'S ABOUT A *BEGOND-STORY MAN* NAMED *HERBIE!* BUT *YOU* WON'T FEEL *ROBBED* WHEN YOU READ WHAT *HAPPENS* TO HIM IN THIS *CAULDRON-COOKING* CALLED...

PRIVATE PERFORMANCE

HERBIE HAD CASED THE LUXURIOUS-LOOKING HOUSE FOR TWO WEEKS! HE KNEW IN *EXACTLY* WHICH ROOM ITS OCCUPANTS, AN ELDERLY MAN AND HIS WIFE, SLEPT! HE KNEW *EXACTLY* WHAT TIME THEY WENT TO BED EACH NIGHT! AND MOST IMPORTANT... HE'D SEEN THE OLD GAL'S JEWELS, AND KNEW *EXACTLY* WHERE SHE KEPT THEM! NOW, HERBIE WATCHED FROM HIS HIDING PLACE IN THE SHADOWS... *WATCHED AND WAITED*.

AH! THERE GO THE *LIGHTS!* THEY'RE *HITTIN'* THE *HAY!* WHAT A *SOFT TOUCH THIS'S GONNA BE!* I'LL GIVE 'EM AN *HOUR* TO *FALL ASLEEP*...

AN HOUR LATER, HERBIE MOVED ACROSS THE WELL-KEPT LAWN TOWARD THE DARK AND SILENT MANSION...

SHE MUST HAVE *FIFTY GRAND'S* WORTH OF *ROCKS* IN THAT *WALL SAFE!* I'LL BE *SET* WHEN I KNOCK OFF *THIS* JOB!

THE WINDOW ON THE TERRACED BALCONY HAD BEEN LEFT OPEN AS USUAL! HERBIE MOUNTED THE TRELLIS AND BEGAN TO CLIMB IT NOISELESSLY...

THE OLD BOY MUST BE A *BANKER* OR SUMPTIN'! *WHAT A SHACK!*

HERBIE SLIPPED OVER THE BALCONY RAILING AND GLIDED TOWARD THE OPEN WINDOW! A FAINT BREEZE STIRRED THE SHEER CURTAINS...

SO FAR SO GOOD!

ONCE INSIDE, HERBIE DREW A FLASHLIGHT FROM HIS POCKET AND FLICKED IT ON! THE LIGHT BEAM ARROWED INTO THE GLOOM...ILLUMINATING A PORTRAIT OF A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN...

PROBABLY THE *OLD GAL* IN HER *YOUNGER* DAYS!

HERBIE MOVED TO THE PORTRAIT AND SLID IT UPWARD, UNCOVERING A STURDY LOOKING WALL-SAFE...

WELL! HERE'S WHERE I GO TO *WORK!*

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER, THE WALL SAFE DOOR SWUNG OPEN! SUDDENLY, HERBIE'S BLOOD FROZE AS THE HYSTERICAL SHRIEK ECHOED THROUGH THE HOUSE

E-E-A-A-R-G-G-H!

WHAT THE...

SOMEWHERE A DOOR SLAMMED! HERBIE FLICKED OFF HIS FLASHLIGHT! A WOMAN, HER FACE CONTORTED IN PAIN, FLEW INTO THE ROOM...

NO! NO! DON'T... LEO - PLEASE...

GOOD LORD! IT... IT'S THE *OLD GAL!* SHE'S *BLEEDING...*

HERBIE BACKED INTO THE SHADOWS AS A MAN DARTED INTO THE ROOM AFTER THE SCREAMING WOMAN...
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY, DORA! I'M GOING TO KILL YOU . THIS TIME!
PLEASE, LEO! I'M SORRY I SAID SOB... WHAT I—SOB... SAID!
THE MAN STOOD OVER THE WOMAN... THE BRONZE STATUETTE RAISED, BASE UPWARD, IN HIS HAND...
SORRY, HAH! NOW YOU'RE SORRY! BUT NEXT TIME, YOU'LL THROW IT UP TO ME AGAIN... AND AGAIN! WELL, NOT ANY MORE, DORA! NOT ANY MORE!
LEO! NO! NO!
THE OLD MAN SWUNG THE BASE OF THE STATUE DOWNWARD! THERE WAS A DULL THUD AND A MUFFLED CRUNCH AS IT STRUCK THE WOMAN'S SKULL
NOT... NNNNNGGG... ANY... MORE...
THE WOMAN SLUMPED TO THE FLOOR! HERBIE COWERED IN THE SHADOWS... HORRIFIED AT THE GORY SCENE! THE MAN LEANED OVER THE PROSTRATE WOMAN, SHOUTING AT HER...
I WAS TOPS... DO YOU HEAR?! TOPS! I WAS THE...
MOAN NNNNNN
THERE WAS STILL A SPARK OF LIFE LEFT IN THE WOMAN! SHE GROANED! THE MAN SWUNG THE STATUETTE DOWNWARD ONCE AGAIN...
UNNGGGG... THE GREATEST!
... AND AGAIN...
DO YOU HEAR?! THE GREATEST!
... UNTIL THE WOMAN'S SKULL WENT SOFT LIKE A BLOOD-SOAKED PILLOW...
GASP GASP THE GREATEST.
CHOKE...
3

IN THE SHADOWS, HERBIE RETCHED! THE OLD MAN SPUN AROUND...HIS EYES BURNING LIKE TWO HOT COALS...
WHO'S THERE?
COUGH...CHOKE...
SUDDENLY THE ROOM WAS FLOODED IN LIGHT! THE MAN STARED AT HERBIE! HERBIE BACKED AWAY...
YOU...YOU SAW!
WAIT! I...I...
THE MAN SHRIEKED AT HERBIE...
YOU SAW ME KILL HER!
HE RAISED THE STATUETTE! HERBIE LOOKED AROUND! THE WINDOW TO THE BALCONY WAS BLOCKED OFF...
NOW I'VE GOT TO KILL YOU...
HERBIE BROKE FOR THE DOORWAY TO THE ROOM! THE MAN BROUGHT THE STATUETTE DOWN SAVAGELY... NARROWLY MISSING THE FLEEING SAFECRACKER...
IN THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE, HERBIE GLANCED ABOUT WILDLY! THE MAN CAME AFTER HIM, CURSING...
@#X?&!!
HE...HE'S MAD!
THE STAIRWAY! HERBIE LEAPED TOWARD IT AND STARTED DOWN! THE MAN WAS CLOSE BEHIND...
I'LL GET YOU! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY...
THE FRONT DOOR! IF I CAN MAKE IT...
9

HERBIE, GASPING FOR BREATH, REACHED THE MASSIVE FRONT DOOR AT THE FOOT OF THE STAIRS! HE STRUGGLED WITH THE KNOB...
LOCKED!
HEH...HEH...
THERE WAS NO TIME TO UNLOCK THE DOOR! THE MAN WAS UPON HIM! HERBIE SIDE-STEPPED! THE HEAVY STATUETTE SWUNG AT HIM, SPLINTERING THE WOOD BESIDE HIS EAR...
HERBIE DARTED INTO THE DINING ROOM, OVERTURNING CHAIRS AS HE RAN! THE MAN STARTED AFTER HIM...
...TRIPPING AND CURSING...
*?%&@!!
THE KITCHEN! HERBIE FLUNG HIMSELF AT THE BACK DOOR, TURNING THE LOCK! IT RESPONDED... OPENING SLIGHTLY... THEN STOPPING...
CHAINED!
HERBIE HAD NO TIME TO CLOSE THE DOOR AGAIN IN ORDER TO RELEASE THE CHAIN-LOCK! THE MAN WAS COMING AT HIM! HE DUCKED... AND THE GLASS SHATTERED LOUDLY...
BLAST YOU!
HERBIE LUNGED FOR A DOOR AND SWUNG IT WIDE! STEPS SHOT DOWNWARD INTO THE BLACKNESS...
THE CELLAR!
5

THERE WAS A KEY IN THE CELLAR DOOR! HERBIE WHIPPED IT OUT AND SLAMMED THE DOOR SHUT BEHIND HIM...
THEN HE SLIPPED THE KEY INTO THE LOCK AND TURNED IT! HE HEARD THE BOLT SLIDE HOME...
IF IT CAN HOLD HIM TILL I CAN GET OUT A CELLAR WINDOW!
HERBIE LEAPED DOWN THE STEPS INTO THE DANK DAMP CELLAR! BEHIND HIM, THE INCESSANT POUNDING BEGAN TO SPLINTER THE DOORWAY! HE LOOKED AROUND! THE CELLAR WINDOWS...
BARRED!
HE WAS TRAPPED! THE DOOR ABOVE WOULD BE GIVING WAY ANY MINUTE NOW! IN THE CORNER... AMIDST THE JUNK! ONE CHANCE...
A TRUNK! IF I HIDE IN IT, I MAY BE ABLE TO SURPRISE HIM!
HERBIE DARTED TO THE TRUNK AND CLIMBED IN! HE LET THE LID DOWN SLOWLY! UP ABOVE, THE DOOR SMASHED OPEN AND HEAVY FOOTSTEPS DESCENDED...
I'LL FIND YOU DOWN HERE! I'LL FIND YOU! WHERE'S THAT BLASTED LIGHT-SWITCH?!
SUDDENLY THE BLACKNESS INSIDE THE TRUNK WHERE HERBIE WAS HIDING WAS PIERCED BY THIN STREAMS OF LIGHT...
WHAT LUCK! THE TRUNK'S GOT HOLES IN IT! I CAN SEE OUT!
HERBIE PEERED THROUGH ONE OF THE SLIT-HOLES IN THE RUSTY OLD TRUNK! HE WATCHED THE PAIR OF LEGS MOVE TOWARD HIM...
HE'S RIGHT NEAR-BY! NOW... IF HE TURNS AROUND...I CAN... I CAN... GOOD LORD!
6

HERBIE GASPED! THE LEGS HAD MOVED ASIDE REVEALING AN OLD YELLOWED POSTER...
NO! OH... NO!
SUDDENLY, THE TRUNK LATCH SNAPPED SHUT! HERBIE TRIED DESPERATELY TO PUSH OPEN THE LID! IT WAS TOO LATE...
WAIT! NO! OH, LORD... PLEASE...
THE RATTLING SOUND MADE THE HAIR ON HERBIE'S NECK CRAWL! HE GRITTED HIS TEETH...
THE GLEAMING BLADE SHOT PAST HERBIE'S EAR...
...ANOTHER SLID NOISELESSLY ACROSS HIS CHEST...
AND THEN, THE CELLAR WAS FILLED WITH BLOOD-CURDLING SHRIEKS OF PAIN...
HEH, HEH! I WAS THE GREATEST...
HEH, HEH... THE GREATEST...
TONIGHT! THE GREAT LEO! MASTER MAGICIAN! AND HIS FAMOUS HUMAN PIN CUSHION ILLUSION!
HEE, HEE! WELL, KIDDIES! THAT'S MY PIERCING PORTION OF PUTRESCENCE FOR THIS ISSUE! I HOPE YOU LIKED MY GRIPPING LITTLE YARN! THAT'S WHAT I CALL A TALE PACKED WITH HORROR! SWORD OF LEAVES YOU SHAKING, DOESN'T IT? POOR HERBIE WAS FOILED IN HIS ESCAPE, EH? HEE, HEE! WELL! THAT'S KNIFE! WELL... I'LL SEE YOU NEXT IN THE CRYPT-KEEPER'S MAG, TALES FROM THE CRYPT! TILL, THEN... 'BYE, NOW! BUY E.C.! HEE, HEE!